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Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT BY CITIZEN EXCHANGE CORPS ON BILINGUAL EDUCATION

REFS: A). MOSCOW 19224, B). MOSCOW 18990, C). MOSCOW 18978 D). STATE 293980, E). STATE 299915, F). STATE 301167

1. AS YOU WILL HAVE NOTED IN REF E, TRAVEL AGENT STEPHEN DANIEL JAMES CONTINUED TO PURSUE SOVIET VISA REFUSALS OF HIS CLIENTS. HIS CONNECTION WITH CITIZEN EXCHANGE CORPS (CEC) IS ONLY INDIRECT--HE WAS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED THERE. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF POSSIBLE OTHER ORGANIZATION CALLED CULTURAL EXCHANGE CENTER, BUT IN ANY CASE CONFUSION OVER ACRONYMS WAS CLEARLY NOT A FACTOR IN FIRST CEC CASE OF FISHMAN ET AL.
2. MIXING OF SEVERAL CASES AROSE WHEN JAMES LEARNED OF FISHMAN REFUSAL AND TOOK OCCASION TO ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF
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OTHER CASES, INCLUDING GLADE FOR WHICH HE WAS TRAVEL AGENT. FOLLOWING JAMES' QUERY, DEPARTMENT ALSO RAISED THOSE CASES WITH SOVIET EMBASSY.

3. AS FOR NUMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION GROUP, IT APPEARS THAT THE SIX EXTRA PEOPLE MOLCHANOV

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MENTIONED WERE THE WIVES OF DELEGATION MEMBERS, WHO WERE TO ACCOMPANY. CEC INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT THEY WERE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THEIR WIVES BUT FELT THE DIFFICULTIES WITH INTOURIST WERE RELATED TO FISHMAN'S VISA REFUSAL. FISHMAN HIMSELF WAS ONE OF THE FEW WHO DID NOT PLAN TO BRING HIS WIFE ALONG.

4. CEC HAS DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT SOVIET INVITATION TO COME IN JANUARY. HOWEVER, ONE OF THE GROUP HAS GONE TO LENINGRAD ON HIS OWN TO VISIT WITH SOVIET COLLEAGUES THERE. (REFTEL F--STATE 30116). CEC, AFTER LONG AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH PRIVATE US-SOVIET EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES, IS NOW UNCERTAIN OF DIRECTION OF ITS FUTURE EXCHANGES, IF ANY, WITH THE USSR.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS ON THE CEC CASE, WE LEARNED THAT A PAPER BY FISHMAN ON LINGUISTICS IS TO BE PRESENTED AT AN UNOFFICIAL SYMPOSIUM ON JEWISH CULTURE ORGANIZED BY MOSCOW ACTIVIST JEWS AND SCHEDULED FROM DECEMBER 21-23. (ON CEC TRIP SCHEDULE FISHMAN WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PRESENT.) WE BELIEVE SOVIET EMBASSY MAY HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTION TO TURN DOWN VISAS FOR AMERICAN JEWS WISHING TO VISIT MOSCOW DURING PERIOD SURROUNDING SYMPOSIUM. SOVIETS MAY WISH TO REDUCE CHANCES THAT DOCUMENTS FOR SYMPOSIUM ARE BEING BROUGHT IN BY TOURISTS.

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